

New England

Ecological Services Field Office

in Vermont

Represented by the following Members of Congress:

Senator Patrick J. Leahy (D)
Senator James M. Jeffords (I)
Rep. Bernard Sanders (I)

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Headquarters located in Concord, New Hampshire, with satellites in Sunderland, Massachusetts, Old Town, Maine and Charlestown, Rhode Island.

Purpose

Field office staff work with landowners, private organizations, government agencies and other partners to conserve fish and wildlife resources in New England.

Management Activities

- In partnership with other agencies and organizations, restore populations of plants and animals on the federal List of Threatened and Endangered Species.
- Provide technical assistance to the Army Corps of Engineers to avoid or minimize the environmental impacts of wetland development projects.
- With public and private partners, develop ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate harmful effects of hydropower projects.
- Carry out the Department of the Interior's responsibilities on oil and chemical spill response teams.

- Assess effects of contaminants on fish and wildlife resources, seek compensation for and restore wildlife injured by contaminants, and resolve contaminant problems on existing and proposed Service lands.
- In partnership with other agencies and conservation organizations, restore degraded habitat and remove barriers to fish passage.

Highlights

The Service and Vermont Natural Resources Agency successfully negotiated changes to the operation of the Army Corps of Engineers flood control dams in the state. The result is more stable water levels, more environmentally protective minimum flow releases, and more natural flows downstream from the projects, all of which will benefit fish and other aquatic resources.

The Service is working cooperatively with Bennington town officials to restore and permanently protect wetland and upland habitat associated with the Burgess Brothers landfill and Tansitor Superfund sites.

The Service is reviewing a number of applications for wind farms in the state, with particular focus on the potential impact on migratory birds and bats.

The Service is assisting the state in restoring a breeding population of bald eagles to the Lake Champlain watershed. Thus far, 19 young eagles have been transported to Vermont and released at the Dead Creek Wildlife Management Area in Addison.

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov>

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Indiana bat

USFWS

Service, state and University of Vermont biologists continue to document endangered Indiana bat habitat in the Lake Champlain valley. Service and state biologists are also working with the Vermont Department of Transportation to assess and avoid potential impacts to Indiana bats.

Issues

The Service continues to investigate the effects of leachate from copper tailings at the 40-acre Elizabeth Copper Mine. The leachate contains high concentrations of metals that are impacting water quality and fishery resources.

The Service is consulting with Endless Energy Corporation on the Little Equinox Wind Energy project to develop a habitat conservation plan and incidental take permit for Indiana bats hibernating within 3,000 feet of the proposed wind turbines.

